

Dragon's Bloodline

(竜の血脈)

Volume 06

Before the Storm

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Story Description:

A martial artist (42 years old, single) devoted himself and trained his skill with the sword and martial arts, but was involved in a large scale disaster, and saved many people before his life ended. Who would have thought that when he went to the world of the dead, a beautiful woman who introduced herself to be General Administrator would appear? He was told that it was possible to reincarnate into a world of swords and magic, and the man gained the powerful Gift [Dragon's Bloodline]. However, he reincarnated as a woman. Furthermore, a beautiful woman. In order for him to walk down the warrior's road to recover his symbol of being a man, he made a fresh start as a woman. Shall we go on an adventure? Let's begin!

Original Story can be found here: [Link](#)

Chapter 81: The Garden

“Ah~ so peaceful~”

Ria was drinking some tea under a gazebo built in a garden.

Out of her usual character, she wore a dress. Because she liked her beautiful self, she didn't particularly hate dresses. The problem was just that men approached her when she wore dresses.

As something else unusual, Carla was wearing also wearing a dress—a white one—and was joining her in the tea party.

The dress suited her, too. It complemented her dignified nature, but her womanly points were emphasized when she wore dresses. It could be called a beauty that was befitting for a saintess.

In addition to those two, Shizuna, Fio, and Guinevere were also wearing dresses. It was a noble's tea party.

Although Guinevere was the only one there who wasn't Ria's bride, her relation to her would probably be as a sister through marriage soon enough.

Guinevere's son was also Ria's adopted son.

Immediately after Shizuna returned from Jaeburg, she participated in this tea party.

It appeared as though she told her parents a great many things, but Vargas gave his consent.

After that, Ria finished Cornada's processing with Carla, returning to Manesh in a carriage.

Although Ria was worried about Carla's mental state, since Matsukaze was sulking from her using a carriage and not him, she was the only one to return on horseback.

Carla was fully energized by the time they had returned to the capital... and so began document hell.

During her absence of just half a month, things that should have been

dealt with had somehow piled up to about a full month's amount.

Because of that, it was only a month later that she had some free time.

When she thought about talking about her conversation with the demon king Guinevere, unusually, Carla proposed that they have a tea party.

"Doing this every so often is good. Right here, relaxing under the sun."

Everyone agreed with Ria's leisurely remark. Basically, everyone other than Shizuna had a mountain of work to deal with.

By the way, in terms of interpersonal relationships, Guinevere was the one to laugh while being feared. Carla was the one to be liked by anyone. Ria was the husband, while there would be some discord between Fio and Shizuna.

However, today, those two didn't have any problems.

"How is the taste?"

Carla had served some scones, but hadn't had any herself. It's not as though she'd poisoned them, though.

"They're delicious. Did you make them, Carla-sama?"

Her mouth stuffed full, Shizuna asked. It was a bit shameless, but it wasn't something that needed to pay too much attention to as Guinevere was doing the same thing.

"No, I asked for a cook from the palace to make them. It would have been somewhat inconvenient."

It wasn't that Carla was particularly unskilled in cooking. Ria had seen her cooking for herself in the dead of night before. It was just that she simply didn't have the time.

"So, everyone, are your stomachs filled?"

Everyone nodded. Then, with a serious expression that matched her beauty— "Let's all have a chat."

She was sitting straight up, looking each and every one of them in the eye.

Ria and the others instinctively straightened their backs as well.

“Originally, this is probably something that should be told to Ria alone first, but we are something like sisters, so...”

(Huh? This preface—)

“Therefore, I’ll say it here.”

For some reason, this felt like a breakup from a girl in Ria’s previous life. Resolutely, Carla opened her mouth to speak.

“I am carrying a child.”

“Heh?”

“Huh?”

“Eh?”

“Who is?” [1]

That last person to speak was Guinevere. However, like the others, her understanding hadn’t quite caught up.

“U—... umm... Who is?”

“I am. I am pregnant.”

At that moment, Shizuna bolted onto her feet at a tremendous speed, knocking her cup over.

“I-I misjudged you!”

No one realized that it was a misunderstanding.

“C-Carla-sama and Ria... I thought that no one would get between you!”

She turned around and dashed away, her dress fluttering from the wind. They tried to stop her, but no one’s head was functioning at that point in time.

“... I’ll talk with her later.”

“Alright... So, who’s child is it? Rather, wasn’t your body incapable of having a child?”

Right. Carla had told Guinevere that doctors and mages all said that she wouldn't be able to have one.

“W-well, about that...”

Ria raised her hand slowly and in a jerking manner, like a rusted machine.

“I think I can explain.”

Fio and Guinevere looking at her, Ria began explaining.

That she also had a body that couldn't bear children— That she heard from Dark Dragon Valis that it both sides wished for it strongly enough, they would be able to have a child— “After Carla went through such a terrible experience, my feelings swole to an amazing degree... then, um, a man's thing came out? Then, after that...”

Fio realized what she meant and flushed a deep crimson, but the mother that had already given birth reacted differently.

“Heeh? So are you still like that now?”

Guinevere, far from being surprised, was very interested in the details.

“No, I'm back to having a woman's body now. Without considerably elevated emotions, it's probably no good.”

“U-umm!”

Fio called out in a desperate voice.

“So... in other words... the father of Carla-san's child... is Ria-sama?”

“Yeah.”

Ria let out a long sigh.

She never thought that she'd become a father with a woman's body.

However, she was happy.

“Shouldn't she rest for a while? Vigorous exercise is forbidden.”

“Umm... can I give it birth?”

Carla's question was unexpected for Ria.

“Of course, naturally, I want you to give birth. She’s mine and Carla’s daughter. She’d definitely be a stunning beauty.”

“It’s decided to be a daughter...”

“Yeah, if she inherits my Dragon’s Bloodline, she’ll naturally be a girl.”

When she explained that all dragons are fundamentally female, they were once again surprised.

“Even so, Carla is a mother now, huh...”

Guinevere grinned with a smirk, but her eyes were somewhat gentle.

“From now on, it’s not just your body. Don’t overwork yourself.”

“... It’s not just mine...”

It was a saying that she had heard often enough before, but when she thought that it was happening to her body, she felt strange.

“Certainly, I can’t overwork myself.”

Carla spoke, feeling her abdomen as though to caress it.

“Umm... is it alright?”

Fio, who had kept relatively silent so far, looked at Ria with eyes filled with a sense of purpose.

“W-what?”

Ria felt overawed; was this gaze from Fio some sort of Gift?

“I will be Ria-sama’s third wife, right?”

It was a promise. Fio herself told Ria that she didn’t mind even if she was a woman.

However, now that this had happened, the story was different.

“Fio, if you’ve changed your mind—“

“No! That’s not it!”

Instead, Fio, clenching her hands together at her chest, wore an intensely hopeful expression.

“If it was possible with Carla-sama, maybe I could bear Ria-sama’s child as well!?”

That was... maybe?

Founder Leyte Anaia did give birth to Valis’ child. Speaking about casual relationships, it should be possible with Fio as well.

However, Ria still didn’t know how she changed that one part into a man’s. It wouldn’t have been strange if it happened when she slept with Shizuna. [2]

“I don’t know how, but it’s worth a shot.”

“Ah... umm... before trying, give me a while to prepare my mind...”

Fio once again blushed up to her ears, enough that even Carla patted her head, not to mention Ria. She certainly was among Ria’s three wives, but she was the youngest.

“I’ll be going to Shizuna, then.”

“Are you sure? Right now, that child might just reject you...”

Although it was a simple misunderstanding, Shizuna was considerably angry. Perhaps Ria would be better for this? Or maybe the relatively unrelated Guinevere?

“No, I’m going to be her older sister, so I’ll do it myself. It would most likely complicate things if Ria was there as well.”

Even at times like this, Carla was Carla.

Even wearing a dress, Carla’s back was both dashing and beautiful.

Such a beautiful woman was something that was just Ria’s. She had to cherish it.

“Your face is loose.” [3]

(Oops.)

“Guinevere, there is something that I wanted to talk to you about, but...”

Receiving everyone’s stares, Fio left temporarily excused herself. She

took the empty plates and teapot as well.

“Well, I think it’s something that you probably noticed though...”

And so Ria talked about what she had been thinking about herself.

The most important thing among it all was that the Demon King was probably Shinji’s father.

Even though she said that, according to what Valis said, the Demon King should have originally been a hero.

“I never thought he was a normal person, but the Demon King...”

After hearing everything Ria had to say, Guinevere could only let out a long sigh.

“He was the boss of that ‘thing’ that made Carla suffer, but I don’t think that he was much of a bad person.”

It was due to Rei and Asuka’s attitudes, as well as when Ria fought Ordo.

Thinking about it, that person could very likely have killed every human in the area other than Ria.

Despite the fact that the Millennium was something where humans fought against the demon tribe, he was trying to nurture humanity.

“If Serge were here, he might have come up with something else.”

Serge wasn’t there anymore.

It wasn’t like he died or anything.

In order to enter the magic academy, he departed from Manesh.

“Well, what he can do it raise humanity’s fighting potential. Could you help with the golem corps plan?”

“Yeah, I have no problem with that.”

However, Ria’s intention would be betrayed.

Because a few days later, a notice of the furnace’s completion would arrive from the dwarf village. [4]

Footnotes:

1. Carla didn't particularly state it was herself in her line, but it was more than implied by context and thus required by English for me to translate the line without it sounding very, very weird.
2. Possibly wording the last line incorrectly, but she's saying that "It should have happened with Shizuna as well because casual relationship but it didn't so I don't know"-kind of thing.
3. A way to say that someone is thinking vulgar thoughts and is expressing them on their face.
4. This is a reference to something that happened back in Chapter 56, when Ria requested that they make something out of the God Dragon's fang. They said that they would need a furnace for it first.

Chapter 82: Healing

Pressing her face into her pillow after jumping into bed, Shizuna cried.

What was making her sad?

It was certain. Carla made a child.

Carla suited Ria well. It was vexing, but she had to agree with that. There was no other human that Ria could entrust her back to than to Carla.

That's exactly why she wasn't able to endure the thought of Carla being with another man.

"Shizuna, it's me. May I come in?"

It was the voice that she wanted to hear the least. She didn't even want to talk.

"I think there's been a misunderstanding, so we should talk."

What misunderstanding could there be? She believed there was nothing to talk about.

However, Carla was obstinate, gently calling Shizuna many times, as well as lightly knocking on her door.

Finally, Shizuna yielded and opened the door.

Shizuna had already taken off her dress and was standing in what was pretty much just her underwear. She didn't appear to mind someone seeing her.

"May I enter?"

"Go for it."

As-is, Shizuna sat on her bed. Carla, who thought that she was going to use the sofa, sat next to her.

"Shizuna, you have misunderstood something."

"Misunderstood? You shook your hips with some man and got pregnant, what's there to misunderstand?"

Her manner of speech was intense, but Carla didn't appear to be hurt by it.

"It's a misunderstanding. I will also tell you about the living beings known as dragons."

Shizuna looked her straight in the eyes, not breaking away from Carla's gaze and enduring it.

Carla's eyes were like they would breathe her in. As if there were no ill feelings between them, they were fixed on Shizuna.

"To begin with, the cause is the mine and Ria's dragon ancestry."

That the dragons were originally living creatures that were all female and would change into males to leave a descendant if necessary.

That Ria and Carla who inherited the blood of dragons also appeared to have this characteristic.

That after Carla fought against a demon and was dangerously close to dying, their feelings for each other rose.

As a result of all of that, Carla, who shouldn't have been able to birth a child, was able to have one.

Thanks to repeating this explanation many times over in her head, she was able to smoothly tell Shizuna everything.

However, Shizuna was dissatisfied.

"You know, I... before you met Ria, I slept with her."

It was her sole superiority complex.

Even so, Carla's expression remained unchanged.

"It didn't happen with you, though."

In other words, Ria at that time did not seriously desire Shizuna.

When Shizuna thought about that, she almost cried.

Carla gently held Shizuna's shoulders.

"There are several reasons I have thought of, but only one that can easily

be proven.”

“Eh?”

Just as Shizuna blinked from the surprise, Carla spontaneously stole a kiss.

“... Eh?”

Carla pushed the stunned Shizuna down onto the bed.

“Uuuuuuh—um, Carla, I-I don’t have this kind of hobby!”

“It doesn’t matter either way.”

“Eeeh—!?”

Carla’s hand stripped Shizuna of her clothing in a refined movement. Shizuna started to call for someone... when she realized that it was incredibly complicated and hard to do.

“Aaah, umm, why!?”

“I’ve been watching you, thinking the whole time.”

Carla stared at Shizuna motionlessly.

“I want you—“

Ria’s eyes were eyes that dominated everything. Contrasting that, Carla’s eyes were eyes that absorbed everything.

Hostility, malice, even hatred.

Draining it.

Washing it all away.

“—Shizuna, I love you.”

“Eh, but you’re, Ria’s...”

“The people that Ria loves, are people that I love.”

Shizuna was confused. However, she found that she couldn’t put energy into her body.

Carla took off her own dress as well. Shizuna, seeing Carla’s dew-like

naked body for the first time, held her breath in surprise.

The thing that was below Carla's abdomen was something that should have been on a man.

"When I felt like I wanted to comfort you... something hot came from inside my body."

Carla's bare face was flushed.

"Like Ria loves me, like Ria loves you, I also want to love you."

Carla's caress was similar to Ria's. As though to answer that, Shizuna's body heated up as well.

"Shizuna, thank you. Staying like this would be painful, so please... accept me."

Saying that, Carla did truly look as though she were in pain and sweating, she was somewhat cute.

Shizuna spread her legs.

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After doing it several times, Carla removed any and all traces of the act and put her dress back on.

Shizuna was laying on the bed naked with her eyes closed, but there were marks from Carla's mouth on hidden areas across her body.

"Come to think of it, what was it... that made it successful this time?"

Carla touched the hair of the muttering Shizuna. Shizuna felt good with just that much, going into a fit.

"There are several things that I can think of, but..."

The first one, although it was a horrible one as far as Shizuna was concerned, was that when she had slept with Ria at that time, Ria still hadn't made her resolution.

It was also possible that the ability appeared due to Ria mating with Carla.

Moreover, there was also a problem on Shizuna's side of it, too.

"Me?"

Shizuna shook her head. She couldn't think of anything.

On that first night, Shizuna intended to devote her everything to Ria from the bottom of her heart.

"Yeah, however, unlike dragons, humans have a breeding cycle."

Dragons decided their breeding with their own intentions. Looking at it another way, they did not mate without the intention to breed.

"For a long time now, I have thought of you as dear. However, in truth, as for thinking about wanting to mate with you, that was just now."

She had only tried to comfort her until now.

"Though perhaps... with that just now, you may have conceived a child."

Her words may as well have been an attack.

Shizuna stood up, but her head felt dizzy like she had anemia.

Carla hugged her closely.

"Bad... this is bad...!"

"What is?"

"Because, I am Ria's bride..."

"I don't see the problem."

Following that, Carla said something wise.

"What is Ria's is mine. What is mine is Ria's."

Carla continued despite the astonishment Shizuna was going through.

"You, who Ria loves, is loved by me who Ria loves. There is no problem. If anything, I don't mind taking responsibility for everything."

"No, that would be bad for me..."

Carla was calm even at a time like this, but she wondered what Ria would think.

“Let’s talk with just the three of us this time. We shouldn’t consult anyone else about this...”

Although that is what was tentatively decided for now, there unexpectedly wouldn’t be a chance for the three to talk.

The reason?

Ria would be heading to the dwarf’s village.

Chapter 83: Pride of the Dwarves

Dwarves were a stubborn race.

That was also to say that their dispositions were stubborn of course, but they were also stubborn in the results of their work.

Consequently, they wouldn't undertake work that they themselves couldn't comprehend, but even so it would take time to complete even if they accepted it.

A report came from those dwarves. It said: "Furnace done, round up a mountain of mages and bring them here."

In other words, it meant that magic would be used together with them forging the katana, but it wasn't like they could simply just go out and gather mages.

Currently, Ogress was polishing its golem soldier plan that had played a leading role in the former Manesh. Mages were necessary for that, but—"Oh my, shall we go?"

—Guinevere herself was the one to propose it.

The steps they needed to take right now, although it's magic, were more about the practical implementation of it than the theoretical side. Since Guinevere was going, that meant that a substantial part of the court would be going to the dwarven village as well.

However, the dwarves weren't concerned with things like kings and queens coming to their village.

"And so, Carla absolutely can't drink alcohol."

They had to take precautions in advance. It wasn't like dwarves were irrational, they probably wouldn't make a pregnant woman drink alcohol.

Together with Shizuna, Carla rode on a specially made suspended carriage.

Since Guinevere was riding on it as well, it was quite like a gathering of VIPs.

“So, what are you two hiding?”

Guinevere suddenly asked them a question. She turned her Dragon Eyes to Shizuna.

“Eh, I-I’m not hiding anything.”

“There is something, but I can’t say it now.”

Unlike Shizuna, Carla, her long-time acquaintance, answered her.

“Oh my? Does this secret have something to do with Ria by some chance?”

“It is related to Ria, so I will talk about it after talking with her.”

“Hmm? Well, so long as it doesn’t break our friendship.”

It sounded insincere, but Guinevere felt lonely.

In particular, not getting between friends was an emotion burden for her. It was a childhood trauma.

Defended by golem soldiers, the group faced the dwarven village. Just then, Irina joined them.

It appeared that Maal sent them a letter by blasting it down the road with Irina in her orichalcum armor on Rudolph’s back.

“Onee-chan!”

With a bang, Irina embraced Ria while holding onto the letter from Maal.

“... What!?”

Seeing the letter’s contents, Ria clenched her fist.

“Irina, is this true?”

“Yeah~”

In the letter, it said that Maal was getting married.

The groom was her childhood friend who had participated in the recent war.

“Uuu~aaah~”

On Matsukaze’s back, Ria suffered.

She’d somehow wound up becoming a queen, so she wasn’t able to easily participate in her friend’s wedding.

“Fio~, prepare a present to give her. Food would be great if possible, I’ll write a letter.”

It felt like her friends were all getting hooked up. Gig was also about to be the marriageable age for an ogre here soon...

“Ah~, maybe I should have a proper wedding with Carla...”

If she didn’t properly explain the Dragon’s Bloodline, Carla’s child would end up being treated as illegitimate.

Even if it was something that should be a happy thing, her troubles just kept on increasing.

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The night on the day after they reached the dwarven village, the four were finally able to have their meeting.

Ria, Carla, Shizuna, as well as the dragon, Irina.

There, Carla quickly explained that she had sprouted the manly feature and mated with Shizuna.

(Hmm.)

Ria thought about it. Assuming that Shizuna was pregnant, that wasn’t the problem. If it was Carla’s child, she’d love it as though it were her own.

The problem was why she wasn’t able to do it herself when they had done it.

Seeing Ria lost in thought, Shizuna felt uneasy. Simply put, she’d cheated on her.

However, Ria didn’t care about that.

“Carla and Shizuna’s child is the same as mine. Don’t worry. However...”

Ria’s expression changed and she scowled at Carla.

“The next time this happens, I’ll be watching. Rather, I’ll be joining you.”

“Understood.”

“Understood what!?”

Shizuna’s shout echoed through the night.

“Rather, how about we do it now?”

“I don’t mind, but...”

“She’s pregnant! Don’t strain her body!” [1]

As something rare, Shizuna’s opinion was actually accepted.

*

Since they’d let the dwarven village know they were coming this time, the head foreman as well as the foreman actually came out to greet Ria and her group.

The head foreman looked at Carla and spoke.

“You’re a beauty for a human. Whose bride are you?”

“Mine.”

The head foreman shifted his attention to Ria, who’d responded immediately.

“... Humans have marriages between women?”

“No, I’m a special case. By the way, I have another bride, and a fiancé.”

“I see.”

The dwarf quickly let go of the topic and consented.

“Well, it’s fine. Now come and take a look, what do you think of this fellow?”

As for what the head foreman took Ria to, it was a semi-spherical furnace in the center of the village.

“... That’s... amazingly big.”

Let alone weapons, it looked huge enough to produce a giant ship’s deck.

“Umu, we needed a furnace like this to process the dragon fang. Moreover, it’s not just a furnace.”

The dwarves had started researching something related to a furnace that could be called a godly furnace.

It started out normally at first, they made a furnace from heat-resistant bricks, but it wasn’t able to perfectly resist heat.

A temperature of that level wasn’t able to process the dragon fang.

So next, they tried a mithril furnace. Since mithril could be given magic enhancements, it could withstand even higher temperatures.

But even so, it had its limits. The mana wasn’t able to hold out as they turned up the heat to process the dragon fang.

So they were left with two choices: orichalcum and hihirokane. [2]

Orichalcum was a ridiculously strong metal in addition to being good against heat. Hihirokane wasn’t too strong, but it was the best material for endowing with magic.

But even so, they weren’t enough against the heat needed to process the god dragon’s fang.

And so the dwarves took out their last resort. First off, they made a made a building of heat resistant bricks outside with a large scaffolding frame. Coating the inside of that with orichalcum, followed by hihirokane, they made areas that could produce heat directly in the furnace.

For fuel, they used charcoal from the world tree. They lacked enough with just that to be the fuel, so they planned to supplement it with magic. [3]

“Raising the temperature inside the furnace without raising the temperature of the furnace itself. It’s difficult.”

Such a feat could be done with hihirokane.

“However, that requires a lot of mages...”

And thus they needed Manesh’s mages to be mobilized.

“Looks like it’ll be pretty hard...”

Ria said it like it was someone else’s problem, but it was to make her weapon from the god dragon’s fang. As a godslaying weapon, it could be called a sacred treasure.

It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that all of the dwarves in the neighboring areas had gathered in order to make it. Moreover, they had only built the furnace needed to make the weapon.

“Well then, let’s go~”

“Ka~y”

The ones to put the fire into the furnace were Guinevere and Irina. The charcoal made from the world tree ignited splendidly, easily causing the furnace’s temperature to exceed several thousand degrees.

However, even that still wasn’t enough.

“It’s my turn now.”

Carla began chanting. Simultaneously, countless mages began chanting cooling magic.

“Thermonuclear Darkness Exploding Hell.”

A flame of darkness filled the furnace.”

Ria put the fang into it with her bare hands.

The heat gradually tenderized the fang’s form. When she took it out, the fang was shaped into a katana with a mallet.

It was a specially made mallet using a mixture of putting orichalcum into adamantium. Once it hit the fang several times, it lost its shape.

“Next!”

“Yes!”

Sweat couldn’t even drip down her face as it evaporated as it appeared. If

she were to breathe wrong here, her lungs would be burnt and she might die.

It was a scene similar to being a single step away from hell.

By the end of the day, just by turning the fang into a metallic form, all of the mallets had broken.

The entire following day was spent on fixing them.

And so once again, they forged the fang, stretching, lengthening it, and folding it.

A mysterious material was inside the fang, causing sparks to scatter about.

The people being Ria's yes-men were dwarven master artisans. Among them was the foreman.

If one were to speak about katanas in the area, then that would be the leading expert.

Although this katana was in the shape of a katana, it couldn't be called a truly forged katana, as it had neither a core metal nor edge metal and was simply a fang folded into the shape of a katana. [4]

Even its handle and guard were all made from the single fang. Magic was used for their formation.

Then, Carla and Guinevere gave the blade that was in the form of a katana the various bestowals that were in their knowledge.

Normal weapons would only be able to hold as much as two or three bestowals, but this katana sucked in mana infinitely.

"Let's leave around twenty percent open. We'll have Serge add space-time magic when he comes back."

"Yeah~. But even I had to say that we made a nonsensical weapon. Ria, can you even use this?"

Even Guinevere's mana would run out after swinging it several times.

Ria's mana was ridiculously huge, huge to the point she couldn't use it

all, so it was a suitable weapon for her.

Now that they'd arrived to the final phase, it was the dwarves' turn.

It was time to sharpen the blade.

Even without a true sharpening, it would be a weapon that could kill countless enemies with a single swing, but katanas just had to be sharpened.

They used a philosopher's stone made from a dragon's liver to sharpen it. It was something that was usually stored away for safekeeping, so many dwarves came to see it actually be used.

More than a month passed since it had first entered the furnace's flame.

Finally, the single katana was completed.

It had a normal form, two shaku three sun five bu (around seventy-one centimeters) long with a three bu three rin (around a single centimeter) curve, it had ripples shining beautifully down the wide tempering line of the blade. [5]

Its color was as though darkness itself was shining, the color of Ria's hair.

"Beautiful..."

Ria gazed at the katana, enraptured by it.

From her birth all the way until now, she didn't think something could be so perfect...

"You should give it a name..."

In this world, famous weapons had names given to them. Most were given names when they're made with references to their origin, but many kinds would be given afterwards as well.

"Wouldn't Black Dragon Katana Valis be suitable?"

When the head foreman said that, many of the dwarves nodded in agreement. Certainly, most people would agree with using Valis's name.

However, Ria had long since thought of a name.

“This katana is named Godly Katana Gallach.”

Gallach.

This was the name of the sole katana producer in the village, the foreman’s name.

Staggering, the foreman—Gallach, stepped forward. Tired from sharpening the blade day in and day out, his face was so tired that it almost couldn’t be thought of as looking like a dwarf’s.

“T-to use my name...”

“Nagasone Kotetsu is a smith’s name as well. If you weren’t here, I wouldn’t have been able to make this katana. That’s why, Gallach...”

Saying that, Ria held the jet black katana over her head.

“I will use the name of the person who put the most effort into making this katana! I name this katana Godslaying Gallach!”

The dwarves were a stubborn race. That was well known.

However, what wasn’t so famous was how much stock they put into emotion.

For the strongest weapon born from the god dragon’s fang to receive a dwarf’s name... The meaning of that was understood by every dwarf.

Like a wave expanding outwards, everything grew loud.

Their cheers of joy were like an explosion.

The dwarf foremen clapped Gallach’s back.

Together with the katana, his legend was born.

*

“Well, you did a good thing.”

The feast continued for three days and nights. Finally liberated from it, Ria and her group returned to the road leading to Manesh.

Gallah was not on Ria’s waist as she sat on Matsukaze’s back. It was too powerful, it couldn’t be used normally at all.

As for what were on Ria's waist, there were Nagasone Kotetsu and two short swords made by Ballach.

Guinevere had called out to Ria from inside the carriage.

"Don't say that, I would've just named it Valis if it didn't turn out right."

Seeing that Fio and Shizuna didn't quite understand what Ria meant, Guinevere explained to them.

"In other words, Ria gained all of the dwarves' support just by naming a single katana with one of their names."

Dwarves were obstinate.

As well as simple.

Once they decided on something, they wouldn't bend. Once they decide to do something for someone, they would never betray them.

By using the as of yet still unknown foreman's name on a weapon whose name would leave its mark on history, Ria moved each and every dwarf profoundly.

Almost all of the nearby skilled dwarf artisans were in that place. She had obtained all of their support with a single naming.

"So there was a motive like that..."

Shizuna seemed to be a little disappointed, but in contrast Fio just felt admiration.

"But I absolutely won't betray them either. Shizuna, don't worry about things like that, it's bad for women who are carrying."

Yeah.

As expected, Shizuna had become pregnant after all.

Her morning sickness was awful, so they sometimes had to stop the wagon for her to vomit on the roadside.

Carla mysteriously hadn't been showing any of the symptoms of early pregnancy, but that might just have been because of her constitution.

“Thanks to that, we were able to receive the dwarves’ full cooperation towards creation of the golem forces though.”

Guinevere was satisfied with that.

In truth, Ogress had all kinds of people other than humans affiliated with it, including demi-humans, ogres that took pride in their strength, beastkin, and dwarves.

They’d have a considerable united front, even when it comes to fighting against the demon king’s army in the approaching Millennium.

“It’s so nice, Onee-chan. I want a special sword too.”

Irina said that, but her orichalcum sword was already special enough.

Everyone thought that, yet no one actually retorted back to her about it.

“Well, couldn’t you call yours Valis? Valis actually made it after all.”

“Hmmm.”

Irina, not quite agreeing to that, clapped her hands.

“Then... Rudolph!”

“Wau!?”

The one most surprised about that was Rudolph.

“You’re always helping me, so I thought it’d be a cool name!”

“No, that’d get confusing, wouldn’t it be better not doing that?”

It might’ve been in their imagination, but Rudolph’s face also looked like it didn’t want that.

“Well, I’ll name it Onee-chan then!”

(Wouldn’t it be alright to just call it Excalibur already?) Ria thought that, but then just came up with a name.

A golden orichalcum sword. Although the large sword Irina used held tremendous destructive power, it was a little hard to handle.

“How about Orfèvre?” [6]

“Hmm? What’s that mean?”

“In the language of another world, it means goldsmith.”

“Heeh... Un, I like it.”

Like that, the Holy Sword Orfèvre was born.

By the way, the katana that Ria named Gallach was called another name by the dwarves later on.

That was: [Pride of the Dwarves].

*

Footnotes:

1. Random note: exercise is actually rather good for pregnant women, just not at that specific area...!
2. Hihirokane appeared at one point in a previous chapter in passing, but hasn’t been really explained. Just think of it as a second kind of “fantasy metal” alongside orichalcum—it’s something used often in Japanese fantasy.
3. Note that I’m not sure if there’s only a single world tree or several, the Japanese doesn’t specify.
4. If you’re interested in what the core and edge stuff means, I recommend looking into how Katanas are normally made here.
5. Shaku = 30.3cm, Sun = 3.03cm, Bu = 3mm, Rin = 0.3mm. “Wide tempering line of the blade” = Hiro-Suguha = This
6. Orfèvre is French for goldsmith.

Chapter 84: The Queen's Marriage

"So you're Maal's groom!"

"Y-yes!"

Due to being glared at by Ria's Dragon Eyes, the cat beastkin solidified completely.

It was a beastkin with gray tiger stripes originating from his neck. It appeared he was a year older than Maal.

And his name was Niko.

They were at Maal's new house.

Even if it was called a new house, since it was previously used by a family that was moved to another village, it was just a deserted house.

It was completely cleaned out and had the minimum required furnishings. Maal seemed to have prepared it all with money she'd received from Ria.

"Hmph, if you're a man, you should have built a new house yourself."

Ria was saying mean stuff, but she knew that herself.

At any rate, her hug pillow that she loved more than a little sister was being taken away by some other man.

"Well whatever, let's hear how you two fell in love."

She sat down on a chair with a thump. Since it was for a beastkin to use, it was a bit small.

Though she'd said she wanted to know how they fell in love, they were childhood friends to start with.

The boy was still young when Maal had encountered the slave hunters and wasn't able to do anything.

However, he gained experience in that following year during his travels out to find Maal's whereabouts.

There were various things that happened during his journeys, but they'll

be left out.

Hearing Ria's most repeated propaganda of releasing beastkin during the war against Cordova, he joined in. It looked as though he'd earned himself a few achievements in attacking their supply lines.

During all that, he appeared to have found Maal after searching for so long.

When he returned to the village after the war with Maal, he learned that she came back after being released from slavery.

Worried that something else might happen, he immediately proposed to her.

Getting her consent, they held a wedding and now there they were.

Ria really wanted to see Maal in her bridal outfit, but beastkin didn't particularly wear bridal outfits; they would simply dress up a bit and hold a party, announcing to everyone that they'd gotten married.

Even when she'd asked Irina—who had participated in it—about what happened, she only really remembered that the food was luxurious.

"I see. Got it."

Ria's Dragon Eyes vanished, finally releasing Niko.

"It's unfortunate that I wasn't able to make it, but there's no fixing that now. However, please come to mine."

"Eeh!? Ria-chan's getting married!?"

Maal was surprised, but that much was natural as she hadn't been filled in on the details yeah.

"Yeah, Carla and Shizuna are already my wives, and Fio talked to her parents."

"Huh?"

Niko's reaction was natural, too.

Ria gave them a brief explanation. About ryuujin. About how they were both genders. And that two of them were already pregnant.

“Heeh, congratulations.”

“So there’s a race like that...”

The couple had that sort of reaction.

*

Once she had them promise to come to hers, Ria and the rest returned to Manesh.

It’d turn into another document hell, but they had to prepare for another reception.

It was simple for Ria since she’d be wearing men’s clothing, but Carla and Shizuna each had to prepare dresses. In particular, Carla had to pick a dress that didn’t constrict her abdomen, so she decided to pick a style that had lace for decoration.

“You two are pretty~”

It was a place where not many humans would be allowed to enter, but since Irina wasn’t a human anyways, she basically had a free pass to anywhere she wanted to go.

Moving about here and there in the huge castle with her clinking orichalcum armor, she’d come upon the two trying on clothes.

“D-does it suit me?”

Shizuna didn’t feel like she was enough. Even if she could be called a beauty, Carla was overwhelmingly beautiful. Even so, she asked since she knew that Irina wouldn’t lie.

“Un, super pretty~”

Since Irina said that, Shizuna was a bit happy.

The time from the announcement to the date of was just a single month.

The fact that Carla and Shizuna were already pregnant was taken into account for the date, so all of the nobles had to do some major restructuring of their schedules to make the event.

Thanks to that, it was even more difficult for Guinevere who was

responsible for coordinating it, but her duties matched her hobbies, so she willingly performed her work.

There was only a single other person with an even harder job.

That person was none of than Ria.

Were ryuujin hermaphrodites or asexual? At any rate, since they'd made it public that she could have children even with another woman, there were many, many female candidates sent over.

The first thing done to the army of women wearing beautiful dresses, armed with fashionable hairstyles, and wearing just the right amount of makeup was... they were handed wooden swords.

“And so, please swing the swords one thousand times. If you are unable, Her Majesty is not interested.”

With Fio, a knight, saying that, the majority of the young women dispersed in low spirits.

Even so, there were uncharacteristically muscular, brave woman among them who were among the knight orders, but once they were interviewed by Carla, most of them also fled in dejection.

How were they supposed to compete against such a beauty?

But even among those, some made their way past the walls of muscle and beauty.

“To start with, why do you want to be my wife?”

At this point, it was practically the same thing as a presidential interview. Some of the people interviewed had the disposition of only loving women in the first place and were introduced to others that were the same as them... even though it wasn't a matchmaking place.

“Ria, wouldn't it be better to just make an inner palace already?” [1]

Guinevere made the proposal with a laugh, but Ria wasn't fine with just any girl.

Shizuna was amazingly cute when teased despite being strong-willed

and she'd felt destined to be with Carla from the get-go. For Fio, she wanted to answer her pure feelings with goodwill.

"Let's finish with the Millennium first. If we make it through that, maybe we'll do a harem or something."

Ria muttered. The most important thing was the battle where the destiny of mankind was on the line, she didn't have the time to have more wives.

"The first in line for the throne is Guinevere's son, so even if they give me more wives, wouldn't it just be for me? No matter how you look at it, how many women would be happy being married to a woman?"

Guinevere's son, Shinji, was already announced as being Ria's adopted son. She'd already said countless times that he'd eventually be inheriting the throne with Guinevere acting as the regent.

But even so, there were many nobles sending their daughters to be Ria's wife.

"Well, rather than being married to some strange man, they want to be married to a woman who is beautiful, dignified, and moreover can have children with them. Isn't that natural for a woman to want?"

When she'd asked Guinevere because she was in the same room handling government affairs, that was the response she received.

"... Perhaps... am I popular?"

"All of the blooming young women are coming to be either your wife or your mistress, do you know how many surplus noble males of suitable age there are?"

Accordingly, Ria made a place for noble men and women to meet up and started a matchmaking party.

Even though she had to work their military preparations for the upcoming Millennium, things like this were also work for the ruler.

"And there's a report from a Cornada count. It says that another small revolt appeared, so they would like for you to make another appearance

soon.”

A paper fluttered out from Guinevere’s hands.

“Guaah! Why’s there another revolt already!?”

She wanted to focus more on things that were happening here!

“Um, I’ve been thinking about that...”

For that, Fio came up with a splendid idea.

“What if you promote the Cornada earl to regional earl? That way, he would have the ability to mobilize the surrounding nobles.” [2]

“But if Ria did that and the Cornada earl were to revolt as well, wouldn’t it become quite an issue?”

“No, that’s good! Good! That guy doesn’t feel like the kind of person who’d rebel, so let’s give him more stuff he can do!”

Like that, she threw another problem onto someone else.

*

The day of the ceremony finally arrived.

An audience not normally seen collected together, the nobles and bureaucrats had gathered. Accompanied by Carla and Shizuna on either side, Ria made her way to the throne and sat down on it.

Representing all of the vassals, Guinevere praised Ria’s militaristic exploits and rule, praying that her reign be a long one.

Ria stood, giving her thanks for everyone’s cooperation in her rule to her vassals, and once again asked for everyone to do their best for the upcoming Millennium.

It was only one of the purposes they were gathered that day, but it was given a large portion of time.

Political criminals, be it due to a minor or major offense, would be released from prison.

In addition, she issued a decree.

This decree was famous for releasing Cao Cao from China's Three Kingdom's Period (220-280 CE), but it was a declaration that would use every person with the ability to help, no questions asked.

This received resistance from the upper ranked nobles who had been making arrangements beforehand, but Ria carried it out decisively nonetheless.

The reason for that was because if she didn't do it, she would be buried in documents.

Even if their conducts were a bit bad, Ria wanted more bureaucrats with the ability to handle paperwork.

In truth, a certain marquis who was supposed to be retiring would be working once again.

This man had made a joint alliance with Cordova and was politically opposed to Guinevere.

So he would make a fringe anti-Guinevere faction for the current Ogress, but since the fundamentally required Cordova was no longer there, it was irrelevant.

"Alright, now I can finally go back home!"

Leaving the man who was able to do the paperwork to be secretary of state in name only by putting him under Guinevere's watch as prime minister, even though there were a lot of nobles who had opposed the former Manesh returning to court, everything was going as Ria planned.

It's a story for later, but on this day, Ria formally proclaimed Uslan Marquess Carla as her queen and Baroness Shizuna as her consort.

Two beautiful women on her sides, Ria made an appearance to her citizens from the royal palace's balcony and received an extremely long cheer.

Even if the Millennium was approaching, she overthrew Cordova and brought peace to the land.

She was a godlike ruler.

(Ah, I also have to go through the legal reforms huh. Well, maybe I can just pick up some street-side scholar and leave it to them?) Many unplanned things happened throughout, but at any rate, with this event, the Ogress Archduchy had shown its might.

*

More than five hundred thousand citizens benefited from the temporary stalls and free gladiator competitions that were held in Manesh.

Of course, there were also people who were looking at the situation without being swept away by the fleeting enjoyment.

In the corner of a noisy dining room, Haruto and Ferna were sipping some stew.

“Haah, what now...”

Ferna ended up sticking with Haruto quite forcibly, but she didn’t have any vision for what they should do from here on.

However, Haruto, who’d experienced existence as the hero turned into the demon king, had already been thinking about where to go.

As for what Haruto was thinking, it was probably something that would clash with the Black Cats...

“We’re going to Casalia, followed by Lemdria after that.”

“Lem...!”

That was where Black Cats’ base was located.

Ferna had heard that Haruto was avoiding Lemdria.

“It’s dangerous!”

“I’ll be alright, I still have about three trump cards. Besides, I’m not going there to fight.”

Saying that, Haruto put on his usual radiant smile.

“Meanwhile, I want you to defend this country. To be precise, the Manesh duke and the Uslan marquess.”

Those two were dragonslayers.

Though either of them should be no weaker than Ferna, what danger would approach them?

“Mmm... they may or may not be attacked by some demon or some organization’s assassins. Particularly the pregnant Uslan marquess.”

Haruto, the demon king, intended to help Ogress. Even if they had killed one of the demon tribe’s leadership, he hadn’t changed his mind.

And so, how would the Black Cats make their move? They should be on the side of humans, but since there was a possibility that Ogress was working together with the demon tribe, Ferna couldn’t tell what sort of decision Yamato would make.

“Are you really not going to be in danger?”

In the end, that was all.

Ferna was simply worried about Haruto.

“Yes. I’m a coward, after all. I’ll run away as soon as I think it’s dangerous.”

Ferna had no choice but to believe in his words.

Things like that were the pitfalls of being in love.

“And so, Ferna-san, please do that for me.”

“Understood.”

Even if it was just her delusion, she felt that their relationship was an equal one.

For right now, for Ferna, that was enough.

*

Footnotes:

1. Briefly explained this in one of the first chapters, but an inner palace is a place for woman to live “within” the palace proper. Think of it as a

no-guys-allowed area.

2. I don't get these noble ranks. Looking up stuff on google, "regional earl" is meant to be something like a Marquis... but Marquis (the word for it at least) is used in this chapter as something different. Blah.

Chapter 85: Home

Ryuke Riana Crystal Casalia Ogress returned to her hometown.

As far as Casalia was concerned, this was a major scandal.

The present king's eldest child was illegitimate, and despite being the eldest daughter, she was a troubling existence to handle.

And what was more troubling, she was a ryuujin.

Although no one really knew exactly what being a ryuujin meant, whether they were asexual or hermaphroditic for example, they did know that they could leave offspring as a man could.

In actuality, their court had already received information that the two wives she left in Manesh were already pregnant.

In order for Ria to return to Anise, she needed to bring a proper group along.

500 elite ogres, 300 elite dwarves, 1000 elite beastkin, as well as 1000 humans.

It held the meaning of stating that the country named Ogress was a nation of all races. They only numbered 3000, but their purpose wasn't to needlessly provoke Casalia, as well as the simple fact that they didn't have Serge to handle the serious matter of food transportation.

At any rate, wearing jet black armor in the middle of the group with a red-lined black cloak, Ria stood out.

She wasn't wearing a mask either. Today, she would enter with her face exposed to the citizens. Many of the people who came out to see her swooned after seeing her face.

She had suitably polished her looks in preparation for this day.

She got off her horse when she entered the castle gate. Members of the royal family could ride on horseback until another gate, but this was proof that as archduke, she had already settled into her rank as a vassal.

But without even wearing a small blade on her person and with a not-so-

large body, she strode forth into the court in a dignified manner.

To begin with, her status as a human was different.

People that inadvertently saw her Dragon Eyes found themselves unable to stand, taking a knee on the spot.

During the meeting, Ria kneeled, not as family, but as a retainer.

Her royal father, Neyas, persistently received Ria as his daughter.

“Rise, my daughter.”

Ria felt that his voice had weakened.

Thinking about it, Ria had run away from the court around the time various complicated and mysterious things started to happen while her father confronted it all. Even if he had no choice but to do so, she thought it was something to be praised.

“You’ve grown taller. It’s been two years, hasn’t it?”

In that period, it looked as though Ria had more siblings. She wondered if it might turn into something complicated again.

Her royal father sat above her on the throne, relying on it to prop himself up.

Even without using Dragon Eyes, it was easy for her to see how fatigued he had become.

A cabinet minister standing at the bottom of the stairs enumerated Ria’s achievements. If they were true—all of it was true—it was already the work of a hero.

Even though they were already aware, now that it was being recited in front of them, it was natural to doubt if it were all true.

A sense of reverent awe never before seen filled the palace, as well as a sense of envy that could pierce skin.

Once the minister had finished reciting all of Ria’s achievements, the king stood up from the throne.

“I once again recognize that my daughter, Ryuke Riana, is the head of

the new archduke family, Ogress.”

Applause and shouts of joy sounded out following the king’s declaration.

*

“But still, father, you look worn out.”

“Half of it is your fault.”

Moving to his office after the audience meeting, Ria stood lined up with the cabinet ministers.

“Mine?”

“Due do your role in Cordova’s destruction, there was a movement to make you Casalia’s queen.”

“That’d be impossible. Ogress and Casalia are far away from each other. There’s a limit to how much a single ruler can govern.”

For example, even with its great might, the empire didn’t intend on ruling the entire continent.

“Well, it took a fair number of things to crush the movement. I was finally able to take a rest.”

Her father’s complexion looked poor on close inspection, but his mood itself didn’t seem that bad. It was true that he solved the issues that popped up in the court.

“With this, Casalia and Ogress are completely prepared for the Millennium, huh.”

“The Millennium, huh...”

The king brought his hand to his chin.

“Will something like that really come?”

“What are you saying this far in?”

Ria questioned him, but humans that hadn’t met existences like Labyrinth or the Demon King would likely only think of things like the Millennium as things that belong in fairytales.

“I talked with the lord of the labyrinth, someone who battled in the Millennium a thousand years before. They said that it will arrive within a decade. Then, when I fought one of the Demon King’s subordinates just a few days ago—“

Since this was something that wasn’t part of Reyas’ report, everyone was surprised.

“I fought against the Demon King directly.”

The cabinet ministers practically fell out of their chairs.

“The previous hero changed sides, became the Demon King, and said that the attack will be within three years.”

That was one of Ogress’ most well kept secrets.

So secret that the only people who knew were Ria, Carla, and Guinevere.

Three years.

It was much too short of a time.

“T-three years...?”

Hearing the ministers’ groans, Ria continued.

“Although this is something that our Manesh marquis said...”

First, Casalia would annex the northwestern part of the former empire, establishing a huge kingdom.

Then, they would forge an alliance with Lemdria, which had similarly annexed a part of the former empire, and work out a counterplan against the Millennium.

Ogress would ferry across new recruits to Casalia and Lemdria with the intention of reinforcing their war potential.

“However, is that not too advantageous for us?”

Once the Millennium was over, humans would once again foolishly resume fighting each other.

Nevertheless, Ogress said that it would offer its latest technologies.

“Should I care?”

Her royal father did not take the thing known as the Millennium seriously enough.

And above all, other humans did not know about that Demon King.

It's said that the amount of humans dropped down to one one hundredth their previous number in the last Millennium.

However, the Demon King was taking something beyond that into account.

The Great Collapse.

Happening three thousand years ago, it was a chaotic event that purged all history before it.

“We will need to deepen our ties with Lemdria and Istria for their cooperation. At any rate, the empire is no more.”

There was no longer an empire. There was no Golden Dragon Clarice to defend the human race.

The human race had to make it through the Millennium using all of the technology and abilities it had at its disposal.

“As you say...”

Her royal father nodded deeply.

*

Well, Ria finished her formal business for now, but there were still things she had to do.

Like speaking to Earl Crystera concerning marrying his daughter.

Called into Earl Crystera's residence, Ria met with Fio's father for the first time.

It wasn't something unreasonable that she never met him in the court either, as he was the previous earl, already passing seventy years old. With his age, he was more like a grandfather than a father.

The previous earl greeted Ria in an independent building built on a side plot on the estate.

“Fio was a child born from old love. I wanted to see her get married with my own eyes, but even after prolonging my life with magic...”

In other words, he was even older than he looked.

“I never thought something like this would happen...”

The former earl looked reluctant, but he also sighed as though he’d given up.

“Father...”

Fio embraced her aging father, nodding many times.

Although Ria finished much faster than expected, a feud was later born with her brothers in the years they were separated from Fio, but that’s a story for another time.

*

Having slipped out of the castle, Ria returned to Agatha’s shop, the home that could be called her true home.

There were the five members from the start and Fio, but since Serge wasn’t here, it was a bit lonely.

“All things considered, even though I thought that she was by no means normal...”

Agatha looked at Fio with an unchanging stare.

“... I never thought that she would take a bride.”

That was it?”

“Also, becoming a queen was unexpected too. Her being the ogre queen isn’t surprising though.”

Really?

After all, humans were things that were no match against those who changed their diapers.

Speaking honestly, she wanted Agatha to come to Ogress. However, there were reasons why that couldn't happen.

For one, Agatha herself didn't want to. She was so attached to the shop that she'd had for many years that she couldn't make herself close it.

Also, there was the aspect that she would be Ria's hostage as well. She would have become an existence that guaranteed Ogress and Casalia not become hostile with each other.

And, this was something that Ria hoped for either way, but Anise was safe.

Once the demon tribe invaded, Istria, Sacred Mountain, and Ogress would likely be the three places they went to first. Compared to that, Casalia's capital held little danger.

"Well, I'll bring your grandchild next time I come. Mom will be a granny."

Hearing Ria, Agatha stiffened.

*

The negotiations between Ria and Casalia's governing body ended relatively amicably.

If there had to be a problem, it was probably the difference in how much danger each side felt concerning the Millennium.

Contrasting how Casalia's governing body felt that it would be an ordinary war against the demon tribe, Ria felt that it would be something different.

Otherwise, Ria shouldn't have been able to gain as many allies and supporters as she did in the fight against Cordova.

Something had to be pushing them towards the Great Collapse. However, the person that knew more about the Great Collapse was no longer on humanity's side.

After the daily conferences and feasts, Ria decided to return home to Ogress.

Yes, return home. Ria no longer considered Anise her home. Although Anise was the place she was born and raised, in Ria's heart, Manesh was her home.

The next time she came, Anise might no longer exist. Conversely, there was the possibility that Manesh might be the one that didn't exist.

Looking back towards the royal castle, Ria left Anise.

Chapter 86: The Demon King vs. The Black Cats

He wasn't negligent. However, he was stupid.

He shouldn't have come to Lemdria after all.

That he had to fight against those monstrous people...

In a literal frantic mood, Haruto fled from his pursuers.

(I was careless since nothing bad's happened recently~!) Dashing through forests and plains, he finally reached the wilderness.

No, it wasn't even a wilderness.

It was a place where no living things existed at all. In its center was a crater of gargantuan proportions.

Of the place where the imperial capital once stood, this was all that was left. Of the three million inhabitants that lived there, this was all that was left.

As he tried to escape from there, he realized that he wasn't be able to.

They got here before him. No, maybe they were pushing him here from the start?

There was a magical barrier. He couldn't even teleport and immediately knew who made it from just how strong it was.

"Azel, Al-san too...?"

Both were called Great Sages, the strongest mages in the continent.

And as for who was approaching him from behind...

"Haruto, there's no use in trying to run anymore."

Shana. A scarlet-haired mage that used the strongest destruction magic.

"Well, you went a bit too far."

Longsword in hand, a giant stood as though to protect her.

Thor. Likely the strongest swordsman in the continent.

A hint of sadness was mixed into his expression.

“Thor-san...”

An existence that came from the same world as Haruto, he was once called a hero.

However, right now, he was an enemy. To destroy the work, or to stop it just beforehand?

They had ended up choosing different paths.

“Hey, don’t you want to start the Millennium now? The circulation of souls will, in the end, save this world from ruin. Don’t you understand that?”

Thor was the only one to still be so naive.

Defeating the former Demon King together with him, Azel and Shana had none of that naivety left. Towards Haruto Arisugawa, that is.

“Trying to persuade him won’t help.”

The person to appear from the depths was Black Cat’s leader.

Yamato. However, a very limited number of people knew the man’s real name.

“Shifaka-san...”

The strongest of the strong. Haruto couldn’t win against him in any way. He was the strongest man in the continent.

Saint Emperor Ryuke Shifaka.

Living for more than three thousand years, he was an existence that surpassed even a dragon.

“Killing you will spur the demon tribe into action, ringing the opening bell to the Millennium. There is no other way to save this world.”

Yamato’s—Shifaka’s voice sounded tired.

Setting aside three thousand years, he was an aged old man that had

lived through many years.

“Doing that would snatch away any chance this world has of avoiding the same thing that has repeated countless times, do you believe yourself a savior!?”

Haruto barked. Summoned as a hero, he'd seen thousands, no, millions of people dying.

Compared to that, this man had seen several times that number.

“I am no savior. I wish to prevent the Great Collapse from three millennia ago from happening yet again. I live for that reason alone.”

The Great Collapse.

It was something that absolutely had to be prevented. However, that meant taking away every living thing's future.

“In the end, you couldn't do anything at all.”

His voice filled with anguish, Haruto muttered.

“I will do the same thing over and over, just my companions will change a little. I have no intention of leaving demons or humans alive.”

Haruto's mana surged, despite knowing that he definitely held no chance against this many opponents.

“While we went through the same thousand years, even though I failed countless times, I've been searching for a future.”

The number of lives sacrificed didn't stop in the thousands, tens of thousands, or hundreds of thousands. All of those deaths were due to the Demon King.

However, he still believed in a possible outcome.

An outcome for the Great Collapse and for the world to make its way past its ruin.

“Preventing teleportation and summoning... will be the reason all of you lost.”

In that moment, Haruto was unlike his usual self—the look in his eyes

was unbelievably cold.

“Summon, Demon King Machine God [Demon’s Bane].”

A giant summoning formation appeared in the sky above them.

No one there was so unintuitive as to be unable to feel how dangerous it was.

“Come, Humanoid Fighting Weapon [Evangelion].”

A golem that exceeded fifty meters in height. However, its true wasn’t obvious from its appearance.

“That’s... no way...”

Only Thor—someone from another world—Toru Hakamada, knew that it was something impossible.

Haruto opened the golem’s chest and entered into the red crystal on its body.

Horned like a devil, its humanoid body was jet-black with two daggers in its hands.

“While you all desperately maneuvered behind the scenes to keep the balance of this world’s humans, I’ve been believing solely in the possibility of having a future.”

Haruto’s voice boomed.

“That crystal, it’s...?”

“Are you serious...?”

“Thor, what is that thing?”

Shifaka was the only one calm, even in a situation like this. However, that calmness didn’t stem from courage, but from indifference to everything.

“That is the power of science. Moreover, it likely uses the power of magic as well...”

Thor knew. He knew just how dangerous it was.

“It isn’t a golem. It’s a weapon for the endgame.”

“Really.”

Shifaka drew his sword. A divine sword. It had killed a god, so it was a true divine sword.

“It makes no difference either way.”

And so the battle began.

There was no loser.

However, the Black Cats withdrew.

Shifaka made the call to withdraw before they started losing people.

In other words—

The one to win... was the Demon King.

*

The heck.

The heck kind of people are they.

Really, those people, what were they thinking?

Even though I was trying so hard to go and make an entrance with a bang for a final battle all like, “This is my decisive tactical-grade humanoid weapon!”

If they gang up on me in a five on one like that, even I wouldn’t have the luxury of holding back!

It’s good they fell back after getting tricked by my bluff, but my secret weapon took damage!

No mater how far away from sight we are, Cursed Wild Dance is too much isn’t it? Even using stuff like Thermonuclear Darkness Exploding Hell and Meteor Shower... come on, give me a break!

Ahh, the armor’s all bent out of shape and the magic formation is crumbling in a few places. Those foremen are going to be angry... or maybe they’ll be happy to have more work? Those people are work junkies

after all.

Well, it wasn't all bad. Even if I worked it out in advance, I was able to measure its operating time limit in actual combat.

Alright, time to teleport. Good work.

"Haruto-san... no, Your Majesty Ars."

Ah, Ferna-san. How long have you been here?

Eh? Your eyes are sparkling.

Hey, seriously, stop it. I'm no good against that kind of attack!

Yep, I really appreciate you coming over to our side from the bottom of my heart though.

But you have the same look as my retainers right now.

I don't like that, so that's why I've been going solo.

"I will follow your dreams!"

Wow, it came!

The ideal declaration!

"Ferna-san, please stop. My dream isn't something so wonderful."

No, really. My dream is pretty haphazard you know?

My motivation of wanting to preserve how things are comes from my life in Japan after all.

As an outcome of learning what the Millennium's meaning is and what not to do against the Great Collapse, there's already no one but me that can do anything...

Ah, that might not be true? Those people have strength, so if the dragons feel like it, they might make survive the Millennium too.

In the end, I'm just doing what I want to do.

Maybe I should've went to Ogress?

"I'm just doing things that I feel like doing."

Really, I'm telling the truth. It's just something that won't come true without saving the world.

Even now, if there's someone that wants to swap out with me, could you please?

Ah, Ferna-san, please quit it with that pose of holding your fist over your chest.

Ah, and please stop your eyes from shining like that.

Yep, I understand. I do. It's been directed at me many times after all.

It's the look where someone falls in love.

There's still time for you, so please go and chase after some boy your age and not some old grandpa. I'm even older than your great grandpa!

Yep, she's my type, so I have to somehow deal with it now before she approaches me. I might not be able to reject her at that point!

While I thought about stuff like that, one of my adorable children appeared.

"Your Majesty~"

Looks like the barrier's gone too. Well, if I used my real trump card, it'd probably be able to make it through, but it's still incomplete.

The adorable flaxen-haired vampire descended in front of my and took my right hand. Ooh, she's soft. No no, this is just familial love.

Rei turned up after her as well. As expected, devil wings are faster.

"I was so worried! No, I actually wasn't worried in the least!"

Eh, what?

Hmmm, is it that she had full trust in me?

Well, it's better than if you had joined in on that fight.

But I'll be sad if you don't worry about me at least a little you know?

"Your Majesty..."

Rei stopped, standing a step away from me. She looked like she might

start crying at any moment though.

Ah, she was worried huh. There were two heroes and two great sages as my opponents after all. I'll take my time slowly patting her head later.

H-huh?

Ferna-san's grasping my left hand?

Moreover, she and Asuka are glaring at each other?

"Your Majesty, who is this woman?"

"Ah, she's Ferna-san, she became my companion."

"Hello, please call me Ferna."

Ah, Asuka-san, even if they've grown bigger, please stop pushing your chest against me.

I've known you since you were a baby. I remember you screaming from having your diaper changed!

Even if you grew up to be so adorable, as expected, my morals are hard at work...

"Good to meet you. I am Ars-sama's adopted child, Asuka."

Even though I say morals, there was that person huh, Princess Guinevere.

In that dicey time just after frantically defeating that dragon, we wound doing it after she said something adorably pure.

"At the very least, I want to offer my chastity to the person I love from the bottom of my heart."

No man would refuse after hearing something like that right?

But you know, if you think about it.

The only remaining member of that royal family is that person.

With Carla's massive war potential and her being a solid ally, she could choose whatever lover she wanted. It might not be my child.

Thinking about it now, I'm not obligated to do anything, so I think I

chose right yeah?

That person was fundamentally a scheming one. Maybe I should call her a wicked woman? No, a bad child!

Well, she made me feel comfortable, so I don't have the right to say anything though.

Maybe it's alright for me to gripe in my mind?

While thinking about stuff like that, Ferna-san wound up grabbing my left arm.

... Umm, Ferna-san...

Even if I look like this, I am a man.

The destructive power of boobs is a menace to all men.

"For now, let's guide Ferna-san back to base."

The girls gathered around for teleportation. Rei, your chest is just as lethal as usually. Hurry up and find a good man, it's your pop's request!

I'll make sure the man's up to snuff though of course!

"This room is somewhat unusual, isn't it?"

Yep, this should be the first time Ferna-san's seen a room like this so her reaction's normal.

This room is based off of an average Japanese house... in other words, I made it look like my old room.

Moreover, it has a bath, toilet, and kitchen added on, so I've been living like this.

Ah, but really, I'm tired.

I didn't think that those people would catch up to my thousand years of accumulation though.

But even so, I wanted to stay hidden as long as possible.

"Sorry, could you keep watch? I'm going to go to sleep for a while..."

Using so much mana's made me really tired...

I found various things that can be improved though...

Anyway, for now, sleep is justice!

So, Asuka-san.

Stop trying to sleep with me...

Credits

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